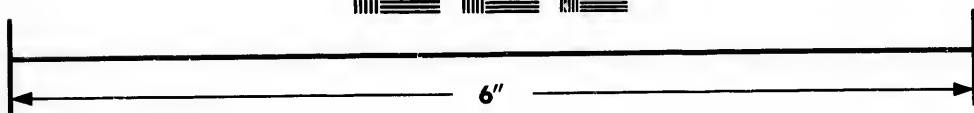
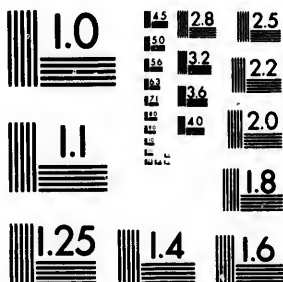


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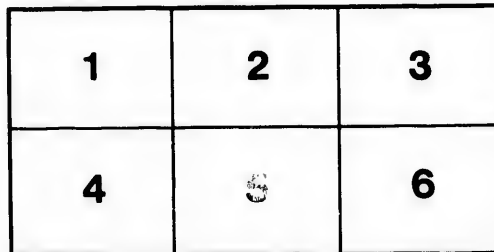
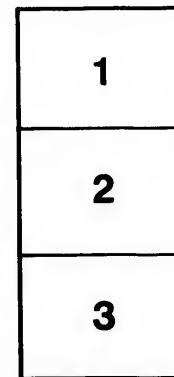
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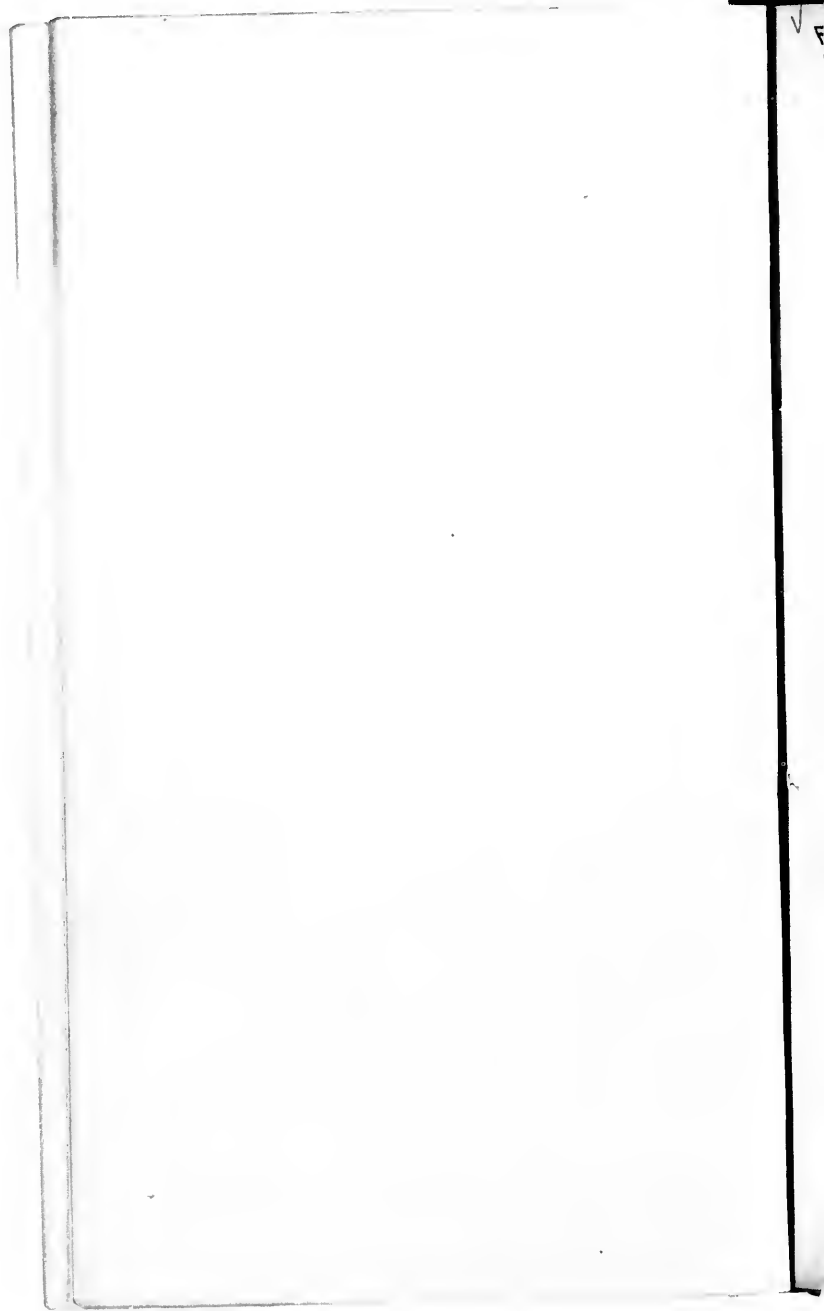
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✓ Friends, Society of. Baltimore yearly meeting, 1805

A BRIEF ACCOUNT

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE,

APPOINTED BY THE

YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS,

HELD IN BALTIMORE,

FOR PROMOTING THE

IMPROVEMENT AND CIVILIZATION

OF THE



INDIAN NATIVES.

BALTIMORE...PRINTED BY COLE & HEWES,
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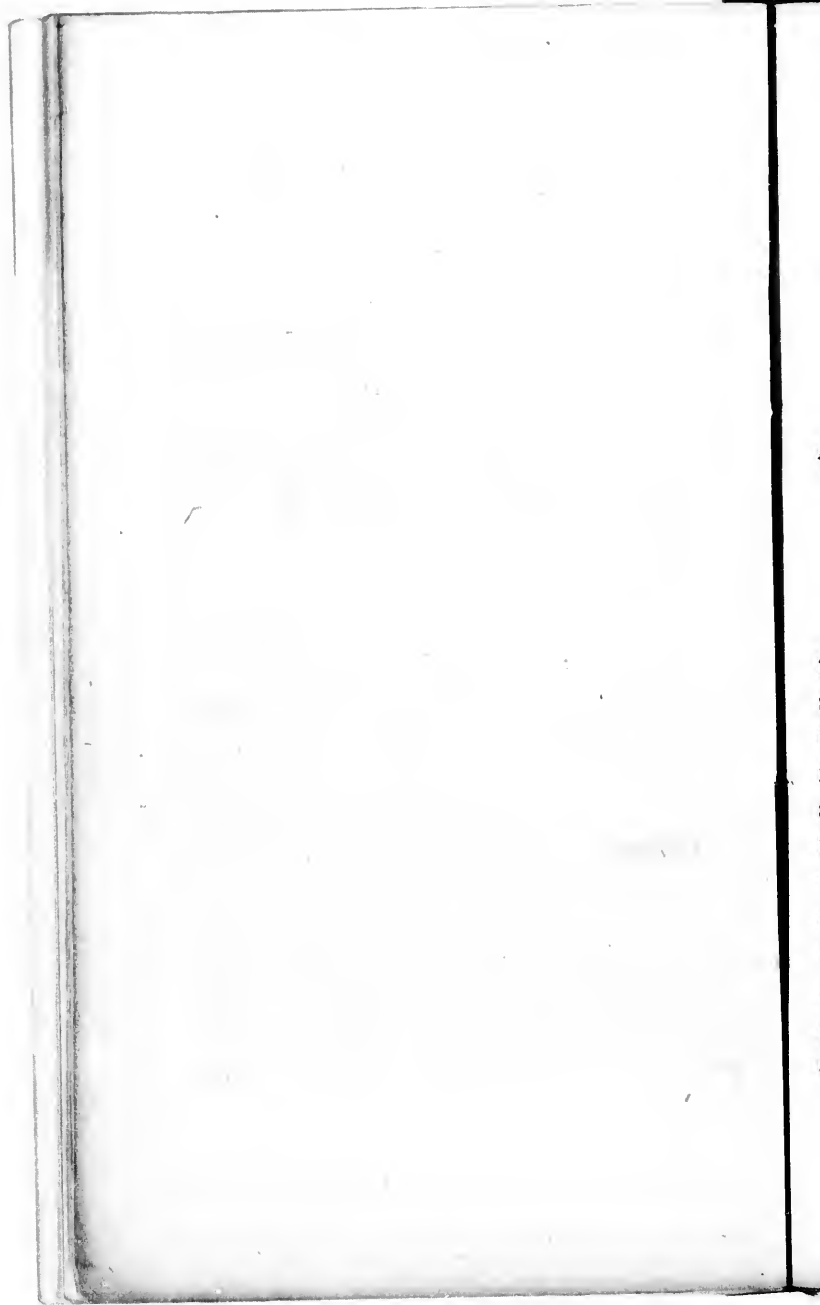
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CHICAGO, ILL.

EXTRACT FROM THE
MINUTES OF THE YEARLY MEETING,
HELD IN BALTIMORE, 10th Mo. 1805.

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A report from our committee on Indian concerns was produced, which being read and considered, much satisfaction with their proceedings was expressed, inasmuch as it very evidently appears that considerable benefits to our red brethren have already resulted, since the care of the Yearly Meeting towards them. The committee were encouraged to continue such exertions in the prosecution of this important concern as may be in their power to extend; they were also left at liberty to have printed for the more general information of Friends, as many copies of their report, connected with a narrative of their previous proceedings, as they apprehend may be usefully distributed amongst our members.



A BRIEF ACCOUNT
OF THE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE,
APPOINTED BY THE
YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS,
HELD IN BALTIMORE,
*For promoting the Improvement and Civilization
of the Indian Natives.*

A weighty concern having been opened in the year 1795 in our Yearly Meeting, respecting the difficulties and distresses to which the Indian natives of this land were subject, it obtained the serious attention of Friends, and many observations were made, relative to the kindness of their ancestors to ours in the early settlement of this country, exciting to a deep consideration and enquiry, whether under the influence of that exalted benevolence and good will to men, which our holy profession inculcates, there was not something for us, as a society, to do for them

towards promoting their religious instruction, knowledge of agriculture, and useful mechanic arts ?

A solemnity prevailing, the sentiments of many were expressed, evidencing a near sympathy with them ; the meeting therefore united in recommending to our Quarterly and Monthly Meetings, to open subscriptions amongst our members for their relief, and appointed a committee, to pay such attention to the interesting concern, as they might be enabled to render.

The committee, after having fully considered the subject of their appointment, concluded as the most effectual way of obtaining correct information of the situation and disposition of the Indians, to appoint a deputation from amongst themselves, to visit the *Shawanccse, Delawares, Wyandots*, or such other nations, north-west of the river Ohio, as they might find practicable. The Friends who were nominated to this service, having first obtained the approbation of government, proceeded in the summer of 1796, as

far as the forks of the Muskingum river, at which place, they had been informed that a considerable number of Indians were collected; but upon their arrival there, they found all the chiefs, and most of the hunters, had dispersed. And it not appearing practicable to convene them in a suitable manner for a conference at that time, they returned without accomplishing the object of their visit; they however saw divers hunters and others, who appeared to be well disposed to receive the instruction and assistance, which Friends proposed to furnish them.

The committee being still deficient in the necessary information, to enable them to proceed with safety in so important an undertaking, one of their number offered, in the fall of this year, to undertake a visit to the Indians, for the purpose of obtaining a more satisfactory knowledge respecting them; and his proposal being approved, he was encouraged to proceed therein as soon as might be practicable. Accordingly, in the spring of 1797, he, with two others of the committee, who became concerned to unite with

him, made them a visit ; in the course of which, having passed by a number of their hunting camps, and several of their towns, they had large opportunity of discovering their situation, often exposed to the inclemency of the seasons, with a very precarious, and often a very scanty supply of food and cloathing, they suffered all the miseries of extreme poverty, in a country, which, from its great fertility, would, with but little cultivation, abundantly supply them with all the necessaries of life.

These Friends had an opportunity with some of the chiefs and hunters of the *Wyandot* and *Delaware* nations, in which they informed them of the concern of Friends relative to them, and endeavoured to impress on their minds, the advantages they would derive, from permitting to be introduced amongst their people, a knowledge of agriculture, and some of the most useful mechanic arts. The Indians appeared to give close attention to their communication, promised to lay the matter before their grand council, and inform us of their conclusion

upon the subject.-----No way opened, during the year 1798, to proceed, in carrying the concern of the Yearly Meeting into effect, except that the committee furnished a few implements of husbandry, and other assistance, to some Indian families, which were situated upon the branches of the Tuskarawas river.

In the Second Month, 1799, the committee received a speech, and belt of Wampum, from Tarhie, the principal chief of the *Wyandot* nation, delivered at Detroit, in the Ninth Month preceding; of which the following is an extract:

“ *Brethren Quakers,*

“ You remember that we once met at a certain place. When we had there met, a great many good things were said, and much friendship was professed between us.

“ Brothers,

“ You told us at that time, that you not only took us by the *hand*; but that you held us fast by the *arm*: that you then

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“ formed a chain of friendship. You said,
“ that it was not a chain of iron ; but that it
“ was a chain of precious metal, a chain of
“ silver, that would never get rusty ; and
“ that this chain, would bind us in brotherly
“ affection forever.

“ Brethren listen :

“ We have often heard that you were a
“ good and a faithful people, ever ready
“ to do justice, and good to all men, without
“ distinction of colour ; therefore we love you
“ the more sincerely, because of the good-
“ ness of your hearts, which has been talked
“ of amongst our nations, long since.

“ Brethren listen :

“ You have informed us, that you in-
“ tend to visit us ; yes, that even in our tents
“ and cabbins, you will take us by the hand.
“ You, brethren, cannot admit a doubt ;
“ but that we would be very happy to see
“ you.

“ Brethren listen :

“ It is but proper to inform you at this

" time, that when you do come forward to
 " see us, you will, no doubt, pass by my
 " place of residence at San Dusky. I will
 " then take you, not only by the hand,
 " but by the arm, and will conduct you
 " safely to the *grand council fire* of our great
 " SASTERETSEY, where all good things
 " are transacted, and where nothing bad is
 " permitted to appear. When in the grand
 " council of our Sasteretsey, we will then
 " sit down together, in peace and friendship,
 " as brethren are accustomed to do, after a
 " long absence; and remind each other,
 " and talk of those things that were done
 " between our GOOD GRAND-FATHERS, when
 " they first met upon our lands---upon this
 " great island !

" Brethren,
 " May the Great Spirit, the master of
 " light and life, so dispose the hearts and
 " minds of all our nations and people, that
 " the calamities of war may never more be
 " felt, or known by any of them ! that our
 " roads and paths may never more be stain-
 " ed with the blood of our young warriors !

“ and that our helpless women and children
“ may live in peace and happiness.”

After a consideration, of the foregoing communication, from the *Wyandot* Nation of Indians, the committee concluded to appoint a few Friends to make them a visit, agreeably to their request. These were directed to cultivate a friendly correspondence with them, and afford them such assistance as they might be enabled to render. They accordingly proceeded in the visit, with an intention of being at their General Council; and after passing through several of their towns, arrived on the third of the sixth month at upper San Dusky, the principal village of the *Wiandots*, where they were received in a friendly manner, by Tarhie, (the Crane) and others of that nation.

Upon conferring with these Indians, it was found, that a mistake had been made in the translation of the speech, which they had sent to Friends, respecting the time of opening their great Council, to which Friends had been invited. They now informed,

that it began annually at the full moon, in the Sixth month. Finding it would be difficult to procure food for themselves and horses there until that time, the committee concluded it was best, under their present circumstances, to propose to Tarhie, a conference with him and the other chiefs, who were then at and in the neighbourhood of San Dusky; which was accordingly agreed to; and at the time appointed, they met him and several other chiefs, together with a number of their hunters, at his own house; when they had a full opportunity with them on the subject of their visit.

Their communication appeared to be received with great satisfaction by the Indians, and in their answer, delivered on some strings of Wampum, they expressed the gratitude they felt, for the care and friendship which their beloved brethren, the Quakers, had always manifested for the Indians, and promised, as soon as the grand Council met, that they would communicate fully to it, the concern which our society felt for their im-

provement, and inform us by a written speech of their conclusion thereon.

Whilst these Friends were at San Dusky, and other villages, their minds were often deeply affected, under the sorrowful consideration, of the baneful effects of spirituous liquors upon the Indians, they being at that time supplied with it in almost every village, by Canadian traders, residing amongst them; and they were confirmed in the opinion, that unless these traders could be restrained, from furnishing them with this destructive article, in exchange for their skins and furs, they would not easily be persuaded, to turn their minds towards agriculture and the useful arts. Notwithstanding which discouragement, the great affection they have for our society, manifested on all occasions whilst the committee were amongst them, induced them to hope, that Friends would endeavour to keep under the weight of the concern, and be prepared to proceed in the benevolent work, whenever way might open for further service amongst them.

To be inserted

(There was not any communication between the committee and the Indians, during the year 1800. In the spring of 1801, they addressed a letter to them, which was forwarded to San Dusky; but the person to whose care it was directed, and who was requested to communicate it to their council in the Sixth Month, not being at home, it was returned to the committee.)

Unlearned from -

In the Sixth Mo. 1802, the Little Turtle, Five Medals, and several other principal chiefs, of the *Miamie* and *Pottowattomic* nations of Indians, passed through Baltimore, on their way to visit the President of the United States; at which time, the committee took the opportunity of holding a conference with them; in which the concern of Friends was fully opened; when they informed them, of the great discouragement, Friends had met with, in carrying their views into effect, from the intemperate and destructive use of spirituous liquors amongst the Indians, which was found to be the greatest obstacle in the way of their profiting by the aid, Friends had been desirous of giving them.

This opened the way for a free communication, on the subject of the introduction of ardent spirits into their country, in which its baneful and pernicious effects, were strongly pointed out. The Little Turtle in reply, made a very pathetic and impressive speech upon this subject, from which the following is extracted :

“ Brothers and Friends :

“ When our forefathers first met on this
 “ island, your red brethren were very nu-
 “ merous. But since the introduction a-
 “ mongst us, of what you call spirituous
 “ liquors, and what we think may justly be
 “ called Poison, our numbers are greatly
 “ diminished. It has destroyed a great part
 “ of your red brethren.

“ My Brothers and Friends :

“ We plainly perceive, that you see the
 “ very evil which destroys your red bre-
 “ thren ; it is not an evil of our own ma-
 “ king ; we have not placed it amongst our-
 “ selves ; it is an evil placed amongst us by
 “ the white people ; we look to them to re-

" move it out of our country. We tell them,
 " brethren, fetch us useful things; bring
 " goods, that will clothe us, our women,
 " and our children; and not this evil liquor,
 " that destroys our reason, that destroys
 " our health, that destroys our lives. But
 " all we can say on this subject, is of no ser-
 " vice, nor gives relief to your red breth-
 " ren.

" My Brothers and Friends,

" I rejoice to find, that you agree in opi-
 " nion with us, and express an anxiety to
 " be, if possible, of service to us, in removing
 " this great evil out of our country; an evil
 " which has had so much room in it, and
 " has destroyed so many of our lives, that
 " it causes our young men to say, " we had
 " better be at war with the white people;
 " this liquor, which they introduce into
 " our country, is more to be feared than the
 " gun and the tomahawk. There are more
 " of us dead since the treaty of Grenville,
 " than we lost by the six years war before.
 " It is all owing to the introduction of this
 " liquor amongst us."

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“ Brothers,

“ When our young men have been out
“ hunting, and are returning home loaded
“ with skins and furs ; on their way, if it
“ happens that they come along where some
“ of this whiskey is deposited, the white man
“ who sells it, tells them to take a little
“ drink ; some of them will say no, I do
“ not want it ; they go on till they come to
“ another house, where they find more of
“ the same kind of drink ; it is there offer-
“ ed again ; they refuse ; and again the
“ third time ; but finally, the fourth or fifth
“ time, one accepts of it, and takes a drink ;
“ and getting one, he wants another ; and
“ then a third, and fourth, till his senses
“ have left him. After his reason comes
“ back again to him ; when he gets up, and
“ finds where he is, he asks for his peltry.
“ The answer is, “ you have drank them.”
“ Where is my gun ? “ It is gone.” Where
“ is my blanket ? “ It is gone.” Where is
“ my shirt ? “ You have sold it for whis-
“ key !” Now, Brothers, figure to your-
“ selves what condition this man must be in.
“ He has a family at home ; a wife and chil-

“dren, who stand in need of the profits of
 “his hunting. What must be *their* wants,
 “when he himself is even without a shirt!”

These chiefs appeared to be much rejoiced at the assistance Friends proposed to render them; and in reply to that part of our communication, observed, “That it
 “was their anxious wish, to engage in the
 “culture of their lands; for although the
 “game was not so scarce, but that they
 “could get enough to eat, yet they were
 “sensible it was daily diminishing, and that
 “the time was not far distant, when they
 “would be compelled to take hold of such
 “tools as they saw in the hands of the
 “white people.”

The committee, on a weighty consideration of the subject, being from their former experience united in judgment, that no great progress could be made in the civilization of the Indians, while they were so abundantly supplied with distilled spirits, concluded to address congress on the subject. Their memorial was favourably re-

ceived, and a law passed, which in some measure provided a remedy for the evil.

As it now appeared to the committee, that the principal obstruction to the introduction of agriculture amongst the Indians was removed, they felt themselves encouraged to proceed in their undertaking; and accordingly provided a considerable number of implements of husbandry; such as *Ploughs, Hoes, Axes, &c. &c.* which were forwarded to Fort Wayne, where they were immediately distributed, as a present from the society of Friends, and thankfully received by the Indians.

A letter was received in the summer of 1803, from the agent for Indian affairs, at Fort Wayne, in which he says:—

“Since there have been no spirituous liquors in the Indian country, they appear very industrious, and are fond of raising stock.” He also expressed, as his opinion, “that the suppression of spirituous liquors in that country, is the most beneficial thing

“which has ever been done for them by the United States—that there had not been one Indian killed in that neighbourhood for a year, and that in no preceding year, since the treaty of Grenville, had there been less than ten, and in some years as many as thirty, killed.” The agent further added, “that the Indians appeared to be very desirous of procuring for themselves the necessaries of life, *in our way*; but say they do not know how to begin. Some of their old men say, “the white people want for nothing. We wish them to shew us how to provide the many good things we see amongst them. If it is their wish to instruct us in their way of living, as they tell us it is, we wish them to make haste and do it, for we are old, and must die soon; but we wish to see our women and children in that path, that will lead them to happiness before we die.”

At the same time a letter was received from the Little Turtle and Five Medals, in which they expressed a wish, that some of the committee would visit their country;

which being considered, the committee appointed a deputation for that purpose, who were authorised to take one or more suitable persons with them, to reside amongst the Indians, for the purpose of teaching them agriculture, and other useful knowledge, as far as such an establishment should appear practicable.

In the Second Month, 1804, two of the deputation proceeded to Fort Wayne, accompanied by PHILIP DENNIS, who had offered his services to go with them, to remain with the Indians during the summer, for the purpose of instructing them in husbandry; taking with him two horses, to be employed in ploughing, &c.

They arrived at Fort Wayne the last of the Third Month, and soon after convened several of their principal chiefs; in a council with whom, a future day was fixed upon for the committee to meet them, together with as many of their old men, their young men, *and their women and children*, as could be assembled: the attendance of the latter was

particularly requested by our deputation; and these chiefs having previously requested, that whatever matter Friends might have to communicate to the Indians should be written, in order that they might lay it before the GRAND COUNCIL, in the Sixth Mo. following, to the attendance of which they very pressingly invited the committee; on the day appointed, being met by a considerable number of the natives, the following written address was read and interpreted to them:

“ Brothers and Friends,

“ When we were together, eight days ago, with the Little Turtle and the Five Medals, the letter was read to them which has just been read. That letter, you observe, says, that we were appointed by the people called Quakers, of Baltimore, to visit you, and to take you by the hand on their behalf, desiring that you would receive any communications from us, as coming immediately from them.

“ Brothers,

“ After that letter was read, our hearts were filled with so much love for our red brethren, that on looking over and considering the business upon which we had come, we felt a desire to see as many of you together as could be convened—and this day was then agreed upon for us to meet you.

“ Brothers,

“ We believed, that the things we had to say, were of great importance to our red brethren—and therefore it was, that we requested to see you together—that you all might have an opportunity of hearing what we have to say.

“ Brothers,

“ Our hearts are filled with thankfulness to the Great Spirit, that HE has brought us safely to the country of our red brethren, and protected us through our journey. We also rejoice that he has given us this opportunity of seeing you, and of taking you by the hand.

“ Brothers,

“ It is now a little more than two years, since your brothers of Baltimore had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the Five Medals, the Little Turtle, Tuthinipee, and some other chiefs. They were glad of that opportunity of having a Talk with them, and of enquiring after the situation of their Red brethren.

“ Brothers,

“ We had for some time entertained apprehensions, that the many changes, which were taking place in circumstances, must greatly change the situation of our Red brethren—and that the time was fast approaching, in which it would be necessary for them to alter their mode of living.

“ Brothers,

“ After our talk with the chiefs whom we have just mentioned, we were fully convinced, that the time was come, in which our Red brethren ought to begin to cultivate their lands. That they ought to raise corn, and other grain, also horses, cows

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sheep, hogs, and other animals. We then proposed to afford them some assistance. They appeared to be glad of the proposal, and informed us—that many of their people were disposed to turn their attention to the cultivation of the earth. They also expressed a desire, to be assisted by their brothers of Baltimore.

“ Brothers,

“ Having been encouraged by the opportunity which we then had, we sent to the care of the agent for Indian affairs, some ploughs, harness for horses, axes, hoes, and other implements of husbandry, which were made for the use of our Red brethren, and desired that they might be distributed amongst them, as tokens of our friendship.

“ Brothers,

“ We received last fall, through the hands of the agent for Indian affairs, a talk, from the Little Turtle, the Five Medals, and others, informing us, that they had received the implements of husbandry, and requested, that their brothers of Baltimore would send some of their peo-

ple into the country of their red brethren; for the purpose of seeing their situation; and shewing them how to make use of the tools; saying, they did not know how to *begin*:

“ Brothers,

“ It is for these purposes, that we have now come; and we again repeat, that we rejoice we have this opportunity of seeing you; and of taking you by the hand.

“ Brothers,

“ In coming into the country of our Red brethren, we have come with our *eyes open*. And although we are affected with sorrow, in believing, that many of the Red people suffer much; for the want of food, and for the want of clothing; yet our hearts have been made glad, in seeing, that it has pleased the Great Spirit, to give you a rich and valuable country: Because we know, that it is *out of the earth*, that food and clothing come. We are sure, brothers; that with but little labour and attention; you may raise much more corn; and other

grain, than will be necessary for yourselves, your women, and children, and may also, with great ease, raise many more horses, cows, sheep, hogs, and other valuable animals, than will be necessary for your own use. We are also confident, that if you will pursue our method, in the cultivation of your land, you will live in much greater ease and plenty, and with much less fatigue and toil, than attend hunting for a subsistence.

“ Brothers,

“ We are fully convinced, that if you will adopt our mode of cultivating the earth, and of raising useful animals, you will find it to be a mode of living not only far more plentiful and much less fatiguing ; but also much more *certain*, and which will expose your bodies less, to the inclemencies of the weather, than is now attendant upon *hunting*. It will lead you, brothers, to have fixed homes. You will build comfortable dwelling houses, for yourselves, your women and children, where you may be sheltered from the rain, from the frost, and from the

snow—and where you may enjoy in plenty the rewards of your labours.

“ Brothers,

“ In laying these things before you, we have no other motive, than a desire of heart, for the improvement, the benefit, and the welfare of our Red brethren—and therefore it is, that we speak with freedom, and we hope that what we have to say, will *go in at one ear, and not come out at the other*; but that it will be remembered by our Red brethren. For we know, brothers, that we shall not be ashamed of what we say, when in time to come, you compare the things we are saying to you, with your experience in practising them.

“ Brothers,

“ We will here mention, that the time was, when the forefathers of your brothers, the white people, lived beyond the great-water, in the same manner, that our Red brethren, now live. The winters can yet be counted, when they went almost naked, when they procured their living by fishing,

and by the bow and arrow, in hunting—and when they lived in houses no better than yours. They were encouraged, by some, who came from towards the sun-rising, and lived amongst them, to change their mode of living. They did change—they cultivated the earth ; and we are sure the change was a happy one.

“ Brothers and Friends,

“ We are not ashamed to acknowledge, that the time was, when our forefathers rejoiced, at finding a wild plumb-tree, or at killing a little game, and that they wandered up and down, living on the uncertain supplies of fishing and hunting. But, brothers, for your encouragement, we now mention, that by turning their attention to the cultivation of the earth, instead of the plumb-tree, they soon had orchards, of many kinds of good fruit—instead of the wild game, they soon had large numbers of cattle, horses, sheep, hogs, and of other valuable animals—and in many places, instead of their forests, they had large fields of corn and of other

grain, as also of many other valuable productions of the earth.

“ Brothers,

“ We hope your *eyes will be open*, to see clearly, the things which are best for you ; and that you will desire to pursue them. We believe brothers, that it is in the heart of your father, the President of the United States, to assist his Red children, in the cultivation of the earth, and to render them services, which will be greatly for their benefit, and welfare. We hope that your exertions to change your present mode of living, will be so *plain* to him, that he will *see them* : This will encourage him, to continue to aid you, in your endeavours.

“ Brothers,

“ We have spoken plainly ; we desire to speak plain. We will now tell you, that we have not come merely to *talk* with you. We have come prepared to render you a little assistance. Our beloved brother, PHILIP DENNIS, who is now present, has come along with us. His desire is to cultivate for you, a field

of corn—Also to shew you how to raise some of the other productions of the earth. He knows how to use the plough, the hoe, the axe, and other implements of husbandry.

“ Brothers,

“ We will here ask you—Are you still desirous to be instructed by us, in the cultivation of your lands? If you say, you are; our brother whom we have just mentioned, will continue with you, during the summer. We shall leave it to you, to shew him the spot where to begin to work.

“ Brothers,

“ He has left a farm—he has left a wife, and five small children, who are very dear to him—he has come, from a sincere desire to be useful to our Red brethren—His motives are pure—he will ask no reward from you, for his services—his greatest reward will be, in the satisfaction he will feel, in finding you inclined to take hold of the same tools which he takes hold of—to receive from him, instruction in the cultivation of your lands, and to pursue the example he will set you.

“ Brothers,

“ We hope, you will make the situation of our brother, as comfortable as circumstances will admit. We hope, also, that many of your young men will be willing to be taught by him, to use the plough, the hoe, and other implements of husbandry. For we are sure, brothers, that as you take hold of such tools, as are in the hands of the white people, you will find them to be to you, like having additional hands. You will also find, that by using them, they will enable you to do many things, which, without them, cannot be performed.

Brothers,

There is one thing more, which we wish to add. The white people, in order to get their land cultivated, find it necessary, that their young men should be employed in it—and not their women. Women are less than men. They are not as strong as men. They are not as able to endure fatigue and toil as men. It is the business of our women, to be employed in our houses—to keep them clean—to sew—knit—spin—and

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weave—to dress food for themselves and families—to make clothes for the men and the rest of their families—to keep the clothing of their families clean, and to take care of their children.

Brothers,

We desire, not to mention too many things to you ; but we must add a little further. We are fully convinced, that if you will turn your attention to the cultivation of the earth—To raising the different kinds of grain—To erecting mills for grinding grain—To building comfortable dwelling houses, for your families—To raising useful animals ; amongst others, sheep, for the advantage of the wool, in making clothing—To raising flax and hemp, for your linen—And your young women learn to spin, and weave—that your lives will be much easier, and happier, than at present—and that your numbers will increase, and not continue to diminish. As we before observed, brothers, your land is good. It is far better than the land the white people near the great water, cultivate. We are persuaded, that your land will produce dou-

ble the quantity of any kind of grain, or of flax, or hemp, with the same labour necessary near the great water.

Brothers & Friends,

We shall now end what we have to say, with informing you, that all the corn, and other productions of the earth, which PHILIP DENNIS, may raise, we wish our Red brethren to accept of, as a token of our *friendship*. And it is our desire, that the chiefs of the *Pottawattamie* and *Miamie* nations, who are now present, added to our brothers, the Five Medals, Tuthinipee, and PHILIP DENNIS, make such a distribution thereof, as they may think proper."

The Indians observed great decorum, and gave close attention during the delivery of this address. They respectfully manifested their approbation of the sentiments it contained by reiterated exclamations of applause, and the most evident demonstrations of satisfaction. In reply, the Little Turtle delivered a speech on behalf of the council, from which the following is extracted.

“ Brothers and Friends,

“ We rejoice, that the Great Spirit has appointed, that we should meet this day, for we believe, this meeting will be of the utmost consequence to your Red brethren.

“ Brothers,

“ The things you have said to us, require our greatest attention : it is really necessary, that we should deliberate upon them. In order to do so, we must beg you to leave the paper, upon which they are written, that we may communicate them to our chiefs, when they assemble in Grand Council.

“ Brothers,

“ You have been very particular in pointing out to us, the duties of our women, and you have told us, that in adopting your mode of living, our numbers would increase, and not continue to diminish. In all this, I certainly agree with you, and I hope my brother chiefs will also agree with you.

“ Brothers,

“ Assure your people, who sent you here—

tell your old chiefs, that we are obliged to them, for their friendly offers to assist us, in changing our present mode of living— Tell them, it is a great work, that cannot be done immediately ; but that we are that way disposed, and hope it will take place gradually.”

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continued from
 The committee remained several weeks amongst the Indians, during which time, they visited a number of their towns and villages, at all of which they were received in the most friendly and hospitable manner.

In the course of their journey, they passed by a settlement of the *Wyandots*, at Brown's Town, or the Rock. They found that the Indians at this place, had, since the visit made by Friends, to their nation, in the year 1799, advanced considerably in agriculture ; many of them having built comfortable houses, and acquired a considerable number of cattle, hogs, and other domestic animals. And they were informed from good authority, that the *Wyandots*, residing at San Dusky, as well as the *Shawaneese*, on the

Auglaize river, had also since that visit, turned their attention very much towards the cultivation of their lands; they had therefore the satisfaction to remark, that the communications from the committee to these nations, and the exertions which had been made, to turn their minds to agriculture, although we had not been in a situation to extend much assistance to them, have not been altogether unavailing.

They also visited the place fixed upon for the settlement of PHILIP DENNIS, on the Wabash river, about forty miles south-west of Fort-Wayne, and found its situation to be very advantageous for farming; the soil appearing to be equal in fertility, to any land in the western country; to this place there are also two good mill-seats adjacent; one on the Wabash, which may be improved without injuring its navigation, and the other on a stream which falls into that river, about half a mile below.

Soon after their return home, a letter was received by the committee, from the Indian

agent at Fort Wayne, informing, that the Indians had held their council in the Sixth month, agreeably to expectation ; at which 874 of them attended ; “ when the written address of GEORGE ELLICOTT and GERARD T. HOPKINS, (who it appeared had been appointed to visit the Indians on behalf of the society of Friends,) was produced, read and interpreted to all the different nations present.” In reply to which, divers of their chiefs expressed great satisfaction ; and amongst others Toethiteboxie, on behalf of the *Delawares*, said “ for many years before “ I came into the world, the white people have “ been offering to do for us, what is now mentioned, and it appears, that our *eyes were never opened*, until this time ; we will now take “ hold of it, and receive it. I am an old “ man, and want to see it before I die ; if I “ once see it, I will die in peace, to think I “ have left my women and children in comfort.”

On the return of the Friend, who went out with the committee, and remained in the Indian country, during most of the year

1804, he informed, that he spent the time agreeably with them, and was favored to enjoy a good portion of health whilst there. He raised about 400 bushels of corn, besides a quantity of turnips, potatoes, cucumbers, water melons, pumpkins, beans, parsnips and other garden vegetables, which he directed to be divided amongst the Indians on their return from their hunting camps; and left with the family of Indians, with whom he resided, upon the farm he had cultivated, 23 hogs and pigs, seven of which were in good order to kill, and he expected would weigh fifteen hundred pounds; these he engaged the agent to attend to the killing and salting of. They were small when brought to the farm in the spring, and had no other food than what they gathered in the woods.

With some assistance, which he obtained from Fort-Wayne, he cleared and enclosed under a substantial fence, twenty acres of ground, and built a house, thirty-two feet long and seventeen feet wide, a story and a half high, with floors and partition.

He further informed, that the Indians who remained with him, were very industrious, and attended to his directions; the young women wished to work in preparing the ground and in tending the corn; from this he dissuaded them: and as some spinning wheels had just arrived at Fort-Wayne, which had been sent on by government, he encouraged them to go there, and learn to spin and knit, of a white woman, who happened to be at that place; this they did, and soon learned both to spin and knit; *and he left them knitting yarn of their own spinning,* when he came away.

He also informed, that a considerable number of *Eel River* and *Weas* Indians were about to settle near the place he cultivated; and that previous to his departure, he was with several of their principal chiefs, who requested him to tell Friends, that they, and the Indians generally, were much obliged to them for the assistance they had given them, and hoped we would continue our friendship towards them, and that nothing might happen to discourage us.

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All the Indians he was amongst, were very friendly; as was also the agent and other officers of the government.

As it appeared that the Indians were very desirous of Friends, continuing their care towards them, and of our sending a person to take the place of PHILIP DENNIS; after weightily considering the subject, it was concluded to endeavour to procure a suitable Friend for that purpose; but none offering to engage in the service, and the committee taking into consideration the low state of their funds, and the advanced season of the year, together with the dissatisfied and unsettled situation of the Indians at that time, on account of a sale of land made by some of the tribes to the United States,* thought it might, for the present season, be best to write to the agent, and request him, to procure for us, the most suitable character in his power, who, under his direction, would plough the land, PHILIP DENNIS cultivated the last season, and plant it in corn: in the performance of this, we hoped he would

* The uneasiness which this circumstance occasioned amongst the Indians has since been entirely removed.

be assisted by the Indians. We also observed, that after their corn was planted, we were willing to believe *they* would be able to manage it themselves; should a second ploughing however be necessary, we directed this also to be done. This person was also desired to prepare for them a garden of the most useful vegetables, which *they* might afterwards easily manage.

The committee have since received his answer to this letter, in which he says, " he will lose no time in complying with their request, and that he will at all times be ready to put the benevolent concern of Friends, towards the Indians, in execution." He also says, " that at this time, a spirit of industry exists amongst the Indians generally; and that, as several of the tribes, had requested of government, to have a part of their annuities expended in the employment of men, to split rails, and make fences for them; the *Delawares* had twenty-three thousand rails put up into fences, the last winter; and that forty-thousand more would be made into fences for the *Miamie* and

Eel River Indians, by the first of the Sixth Month." He adds, "that ten families of the *Miamies* have settled adjoining the place cultivated by PHILIP DENNIS, and that four men were employed in making rails to fence in forty acres for them; also, that three persons more were at work for the *Eel River* Indians, a half a mile below DENNIS' station: that they had twenty-five acres cleared and ready for the plough, and he expected would have fifty or sixty acres fenced in by the first of the Sixth Mo." He further adds, "that he expects at least twenty-five families of Indians will remove to reside at that place the present season, and he is confident the settlement will increase very fast. The Indian who worked during the last season with PHILIP DENNIS, was about building himself a comfortable house, had cleared two acres more of ground, and was ploughing the field previously cleared by PHILIP DENNIS: the hogs which were left there with him, had increased to one hundred in number.

The agent further informed, "that there

would be one hundred acres of land under good fence, at the Little Turtle's Town, (eighteen miles north of Dennis's Station) by the first of the Sixth Month, where they had also obtained a large number of hogs, and some cows, and he doubts not, but that the Indians will soon see, that it is easier to raise food, than to procure it by hunting," and "adds, "Friends may see, from the great progress they have made in civilization, since PHILIP DENNIS was with them, that they only want good and suitable men to reside amongst them, and teach them how to work."*

* Since this narrative was prepared for publication, a letter has been received from the agent at Fort Wayne, dated the fifth of the Tenth month 1805, in which he says, "agreeably to the directions of the committee, I have employed a man to assist the Indians in cultivating the field, on the Wabash, which was cleared and cultivated by PHILIP DENNIS, last year; the Indians with this man's assistance have raised, it is supposed, at least six hundred bushels of good corn, from this one field, exclusive of what they have raised from ground of their own clearing.

Many of the oldest of the *Eel River* and *Weas* Indians have removed and settled at that place, where they will be followed by the younger branches of their tribes in the ensuing spring."

He adds, "believing as I do, that the society of Friends are desirous of ameliorating the situation of their Red Brethren in this country, I will take the liberty to observe, that the present is a very favourable time, to put in execution their benevolent views, towards the distressed natives of this land, and that

" that there

Notwithstanding there are several other nations, who appear desirous of the assistance and care of Friends ; yet from the limited state of our funds, we have heretofore been under the necessity of confining our aid, principally, to the *Miamie, Eel River and Weas* Indians.

It will be perceived, that during several years of the first labours of the committee, but little progress was made ; this may be attributed, in a great measure, to the pernicious effects of ardent spirits amongst them. As soon as the introduction of this great evil into their country was restrained, there was an immediate improvement discoverable, and an almost universal disposition seemed to pervade them, to a-

much good may be done on the Wabash by sending one or two suitable men to reside amongst the Indians, and teach them how to raise stock, and cultivate the earth. Witness what PHILIP DENNIS effected amongst them the last year. At a station where he had every thing to begin, there are now at least four hundred hogs and twenty cows, and the Indians at no village in this country, live so comfortably, as those at that place. If this spirit of industry is kept alive for a few years, it will certainly have a powerful influence upon the minds of the Indians at many of the neighbouring villages. The Indians have lately concluded a treaty with the United States, which has settled all their jarring interests."

bandon their former habits of living, and turn to the cultivation of their lands:—their progress in civilization has, since then, been much more rapid, than the most sanguine could have expected; and on comparing the condition of these Indian tribes, at the time the last deputation from our committee visited them, with their present situation, we are of opinion, that there is great cause of encouragement for Friends to persevere in the benevolent work they have undertaken, and strong ground to hope, that our labours will, in the end, be crowned with the desired success.

When we reflect on the gradual, but continued decrease of these people, from the time the Europeans first visited this continent, until the present, and the many whole tribes, of which not any trace now remains, except their *names*, there is every reason to believe, that should the Indians continue to pursue their former mode of life, a few centuries more, many other whole nations of them will become entirely extinct.

Impressed with this melancholy consideration, it must be a prospect truly gladdening to the enlightened christian mind, to survey the hastening of that day, when this part of the human family, weaned from savage habits, and allured by the superior advantages of civil life, shall exchange the tomahawk and scalping knife for the *plough* and the *hoe*; and instead of ranging the forests in seeming affinity, to the wild beasts of the desert, shall peacefully and rationally enjoy the productions of the *fruitful field*!—Nor is this all, added to the cultivation of the earth, the first step in the view of the committee, towards many other important *temporal* advantages, to be derived to this people from civil life, may not the promotion of this concern, which has thus far evidently prospered, *prepare for*, and prove *the means* under the DIVINE BLESSING, through which, may finally spread and prevail amongst these, our fellow men, that LIGHT AND KNOWLEDGE, which so eminently distinguish the true CHRISTIAN?

Signed on behalf of the committee on Indian concerns, appointed by the Yearly Meeting of Baltimore.

PHILIP E. THOMAS, *Clerk.*

Baltimore, 11th Mo. 1805.

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DMAS, Clerk.

Jan 9.



